



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0253-Room 2610-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20250-0253

February 2002

NOTICE TO NATIVE AMERICAN BISON PRODUCERS AND/OR NATIVE AMERICAN COOPERATIVES

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will, in the near future, begin purchasing bison products for the Food Distribution Program for Indians on Reservations (FDPIR). A major part of this program will be the purchase of bison (in the form of bison carcasses) from Native American bison producers and cooperatives (whose membership is comprised exclusively of Native Americans) and who meet certain criteria. Once the producer or cooperative is approved for the program, they will be asked to deliver a specified number of live bison to a designated slaughter facility for processing. When the live animal and carcass passes all ante- and post- mortem inspections, which includes all Food Safety and Inspection (FSIS) laboratory testing, payment will be made to the Native American producer and/or cooperative. The bison carcasses will be processed and the products will be distributed to participants in the FDPIR.

In order for a Native American producer or cooperative to qualify to sell bison in the AMS program, the following criteria must be met: (1) the Native American producer(s) must be a member of one of the 556 Indian entities recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Federal Register (Volume 65, Number 49, dated March 13, 2000), (2) the bison must be from 18 to 60 months of age and in sound condition, (3) the producer must have owned the bison at least 6 months, and the bison must be produced in the United States ("U.S. produced" does not include bison imported for direct slaughter), and (4) Native American producers must certify compliance with the above criteria, at the time of delivery. Additionally, the bison must pass all inspections (before, during and after slaughter) set forth in the Voluntary Exotic Animal Inspection program administered by USDA

(i.e., Native American producers assume all losses associated with carcasses or carcass components condemned or deemed not suitable for human consumption by USDA).

The bison will be purchased from Native Americans producers and/or cooperatives on a non-competitive, fixed-price basis. Payment to the Native American producer will be based on the hot carcass weight of the bison after it passes all USDA inspections and tests. Designated slaughter facilities, under contract with AMS, will perform the slaughter and arrange for USDA inspections at no cost to the producer. All transportation, handling, and delivery costs necessary to deliver the bison to a designated slaughter facility will be the responsibility of the Native American producer. The Native American producer and/or cooperative will be paid by the contracted slaughter facility \$2.50 per pound on the bison's hot carcass weight, (e.g., if the live bison produces a 500 pound hot carcass the Native American producer will be paid \$1250.00).

It is anticipated that delivery of bison to a designated slaughter facility will begin in April 2002.

In order for AMS to provide the number of bison that will be available for processing, AMS is requesting that Native American producers who may be interested in participating in this program submit the attached Pre-Delivery Survey Information Form. AMS will use the information on the form to provide to processors the locations and number of head available for processing under the program. AMS reserves the right to contract with those Native American's that have submitted the Pre-Delivery Survey

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Information and meet the stated requirements.

Completion and submission of this survey does not create a legally binding contract, agreement, or document of any kind by or between the signatory, the United States government, and any third parties. AMS reserves the right to cancel the program at any time due to funding restrictions.

Please express mail or Fax the Pre-Delivery Survey Information to the following address by March 15, 2002.

Contracting Officer
USDA, AMS, LS Program, CP Branch
Room 2610-South building
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20250

Fax number: (202) 720-9538.

AMS will award contracts to those facilities that slaughter and/or process under the Voluntary Exotic Animal Inspection Program administered by the USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service.

It is the responsibility of Native American producers to make the appropriate arrangements with designated slaughter facilities at the time of delivery for the return of heads, hides, and any edible internal organs that are approved for human consumption derived from their bison.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Lutz of AMS, on (202) 720-2650.

/s/ William Sessions
William T. Sessions, Acting Chief
Commodity Procurement Branch
Livestock and Seed Program



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Pre-Delivery Survey Information
Due by March 15, 2002

Owner's Name _____

Tribal Affiliation: _____

Cooperative Affiliation:
(If Applicable) _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Herd Location
(City/County/State) _____

Can you provide Transportation for the Live Bison: Yes No
(Circle One)

Approximate Number of miles you are willing/able to transport the live bison
to a slaughter facility: _____

Number of bison you are willing to sell to USDA on a hot carcass weight basis for distribution in the FDPIR
program (must meet the requirements set forth in the notice)? _____

Are your Bison primarily? Grain fed or Range/Grass fed
(Circle One)

Approximately how much does each
live bison weigh (pounds)? _____

Has the bison been tested or vaccinated for Brucellosis ? Yes No
(Circle One)

If yes, was the result negative? Yes No
(Circle One)

By submitting the Pre-Survey information, the owner(s) of the above bison(s): (1) certifies that they are a member of one of the 556 Indian entities recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and (2) acknowledges this survey is for informational purposes only. Completion of this survey does not create a legally binding contract, agreement, or document of any kind by or between the signatory, the United States government, and any third parties.

Signature of Owner: _____ DATE: _____